



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Statement Regarding Media Freedom in Azerbaijan**

As delivered by Chargé d' Affaires Kyle Scott  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
November 30, 2006

Mr. Chairman,

We urge the Government of Azerbaijan to reconsider its decision to suspend ANS operations while negotiations on alleged regulatory violations are on-going.

The closure of Azerbaijan's leading independent news broadcaster represents a severe blow to media freedom, especially following on the November 24 court ruling and subsequent, forced eviction of the independent newspaper Azadliq and other news services, as well as the opposition Popular Front Party.

These measures have limited the ability of non-governmental voices to be heard.

We call on the Government of Azerbaijan to honor its commitments to democratic reform and freedom of speech by redressing the situation.

Thank you.